

CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method of tracking an item dispenser inventory at a point-of-use, the method comprising:

establishing a network of computerized item dispensers, each dispenser containing inventory;

establishing a computer data center, the data center being in electronic communication with the network;

establishing allocation codes within the data center, the allocation codes limiting the extent to which inventory is allowed to be withdrawn from the dispensers;

identifying a user at one of the dispensers; and

allowing the user to reconfigure the allocation codes from the one of the dispensers.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

prompting [[a]] the user to enter a login allocation code.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

displaying a user-specific default value for an allocation code.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

prompting [[a]] the user to enter a product allocation code.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:

prompting the user to remove a quantity of items; and

prompting the user to enter a quantity of the removed items.

6. – 27. (Withdrawn)

28. (Added) A method of managing an inventory in each of a plurality of item dispensers, the method comprising:

electronically coupling the plurality of item dispensers to a data center;
allocating a configurable code of a first user to the inventory at the data center, the configurable code including an inventory limit to which the inventory is allowed to be withdrawn from the item dispensers by the first user; and
allowing a second user to reconfigure the allocated configurable code at at least one of the item dispensers such that the inventory limit of the first user is reconfigured.

29. (Added) The method of claim 28, further comprising prompting at least one of the first user and the second user to enter a login allocation code.

30. (Added) The method of claim 28, further comprising displaying a user-specific default value for an allocation code.

31. (Added) The method of claim 28, further comprising prompting at least one of the first user and the second user to enter a product allocation code.

32. (Added) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

prompting at least one of the first user and the second user to remove a quantity of items; and

prompting at least one of the first user and the second user to enter a quantity of the removed items.

33. (Added) A system for managing an inventory in each of a plurality of item dispensing means, the method comprising:

means for electronically coupling the plurality of item dispensing means to a means for storing data;

means for allocating a configurable code of a first user to the inventory at the means for storing data, the configurable code including an inventory limit to which the inventory is allowed to be withdrawn from the plurality of item dispensing means by the first user; and

means for allowing a second user to reconfigure the allocated configurable code at at least one of the plurality of item dispensing means such that the inventory limit of the first user is reconfigured.

34. (Added) The system of claim 33, further comprising means for prompting at least one of the first user and the second user to enter a login allocation code.

35. (Added) The system of claim 33, further comprising means for displaying a user-specific default value for an allocation code.

36. (Added) The system of claim 33, further comprising means for prompting at least one of the first user and the second user to enter a product allocation code.

37. (Added) The system of claim 34, further comprising:

means for prompting at least one of the first user and the second user to remove a quantity of items; and

means for prompting at least one of the first user and the second user to enter a quantity of the removed items.